19. (Amended) A blood collection apparatus comprising:

means for collecting a sample of blood defining a central inner surface; and

a gel disposed along a predetermined portion of the central inner surface, the predetermined portion being predetermined based on at least one dimension of the means for collecting a blood sample and a volume of a blood sample being collected.

21. (Amended) A method for separating a sample of blood into portions including a light serum portion and a heavy cellular portion, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a blood collection tube defining a central inner surface and an end;

providing a dispensing apparatus configured to dispense gel along a portion of the central inner surface, the portion of the central inner surface defining a predetermined first limit and a predetermined second limit relative to the end, the limits being predetermined based on at least one dimension of the blood collection tube and a volume of a blood sample being collected;

dispensing the gel via the dispensing apparatus along the portion of the central inner surface;

providing the sample of blood within the blood collection tube; and

manipulating the blood collection tube to separate the light serum portion of the blood sample from the heavy cellular portion of the blood sample.

30. (Amended) A blood collection apparatus for separating a sample of blood into portions including a light serum portion and a heavy cellular portion, the blood collection apparatus comprising:

a blood collection tube having an open end, a closed end and defining a central inner surface therebetween, at least a portion of the central inner surface having a non-stick coating, the blood collection tube being configured for receipt of a volume of a blood sample; and

a dispensing apparatus having a nozzle disposed at a distal end thereof, the nozzle including a plurality of openings disposed about a circumference defined by the nozzle, said plurality of openings configured to dispense gel along a portion of the central inner surface, the portion of the central inner surface defining a predetermined first limit and a predetermined second limit relative to the open end;